

Endings and New Beginnings

Celebrations and Orientations

Barbara Lawson

253-549-0790

blawson77@comcast.net



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

opi.mt.gov

Endings and New Beginnings

- How do you support colleagues with the end of the year responsibilities?
- How do you support colleagues who have been renewed and are in the same position for 2009-10?
- How do you support colleagues who have been renewed and will be teaching a new grade level or in a new school?
- How do you support teachers who have been non-renewed?

How do you support colleagues with end of the year tasks?

- Grades
- Plan books
- Teacher materials
- Room organization
- Storage
- Equipment
- Book collection
- Fines
- Room inventory
- Keys, summer access
- Special services
- Library use
- Student placement
- Parent conferences
- Field trips/field days
- Parties

Renewed, new grade or building

- All of the previous responsibilities
- When do you move to the new classroom?
 - End of year? Summer? Beginning of new year?
- When can you access new curriculum guides and teacher materials?
- What routines and classroom rules stay the same? Modified?
- What assistance can the mentor provide for year two or new connections in a new school?

Non-renewed

- Same as renewed, same grade
- Teach through the last day
- Letters of recommendation
- Interview strategies
- Portfolio of year's accomplishments

End of the Year Learning-Focused Conversation Starters

- If you were to give a new teacher starting your grade level recommendations about opening the school year, what might they be?
- If you are changing grades, who are your new team members? How might you co-ordinate planning? Are there pre-determined rules and routines that you will be expected to follow?

Questions to End the Year

- Considering all that you have learned this year, what are some key learnings you will carry forward to the new year?
- As you consider summer school, what areas would like to explore? Additional endorsement areas?
- As you think about what caused you to choose education as a profession, what were some surprises for you?

Celebrations and Closure

- Plan a celebration gathering for new teachers
 - Share funniest moment
 - Most embarrassing moment
 - A surprise
 - Hope it never happens again
 - Games

Celebrations and Closure

- Gatherings
 - Before the end of school
 - After the end of school
 - Number of participants may determine when and where you are able to meet

End of Year Gifts

- Coffee
- Cards
- Flowers
- A collection of quotes, stories
- Book
- Poem
- Cartoons
- Food

Friends

- Need at least 10 participants for this activity
- Place chairs in a circle. Have one less chair than participants
- The person in the center begins...Everyone is my friend who...
- Everyone with the same ending must move to a new chair. The last person remaining standing begins the next round...Everyone is my friend who...

Friends examples

(to give participants some ideas)

- Has tennis shoes on
- Likes chocolate
- First year teacher
- Has a pet
- Wears glasses
- Wants to take a vacation
- Loves to read

M and M Game

- Give each person an M and M bag
- Have each choose ONE favorite color
- Then have each person share the answers to the following questions:

M and M Game

- Green: If you won \$10 million dollars, what would you do?
- Yellow: If you could do one thing over this year, what would you do differently?
- Red: What is your greatest student success story?
- Blue: If you could go anywhere in the world with another person, who would you choose and where would you go?
- Brown: What is the funniest student story? (share without names)

Items Metaphor

- Give each person a bag of “items” or have a box for each person to choose 3 items
- Complete the following: _____, _____, and _____ are like my first year because _____.

Metaphor Items (ideas)

- Rubber duck or toy
- Rubber band
- Band-aid
- Glue stick
- Candy bar
- Paper clip
- Chalk
- Eraser
- Kleenex
- Straw
- Chewed pencil
- Onion
- Chocolate
- Magnet
- Highlighter
- Cartoon
- Breath mints
- Chewing gum
- Rock
- Crumpled paper



Describe Your Year

- In groups of 1, 2, or 3:
- Describe your year as a book title, movie title, tv show, song, or _____ (real or made up). If made up, give us the genre, movie rating or category of song.

This year was _____ because, and next year will be _____ because_____.

Videos

- Show videos that may be appropriate for your group:
 - First Year
 - Gifts from the Fire
 - Other short clips

Your Plans

- How do you support new teachers in planning for 2009-10 year?
- How do you plan to support your new teachers in ending the school year?
 - Questions, conversations
 - End of the school year responsibilities
 - Parties/celebrations
 - Meetings